

- (i)] the expression vector of Claim 9[; and
- (ii) any one of the amino acid sequences of Claims 3 or 4].

14. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as an active ingredient [an agent selected from the group consisting of:

- (i)] any one of the nucleic acid sequences of Claim 2[;
- (ii) the expression vector of Claim 10; and
- (iii) the purified antibody of Claim 6 or 7].

Claim 16, line 4, delete "or 2".

Claim 17, line 4, delete "or 2".

Claim 20, line 1, delete "any of Claims 16 to 19" and insert in lieu thereof, --Claim 16--.

Claim 25, line 1, delete "or 4".

Claim 26, line 1, delete "or 4".

27. (Amended) A method for detecting any one of the amino acid sequences of [Claims 3 or 4] SEQ ID NO:9 to SEQ ID NO:16 in a biological sample, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting with said biological sample the antibody of Claim 6 [or 7], thereby forming an antibody-antigen complex; and

(b) detecting said antibody-antigen complex wherein the presence of said antibody-antigen complex correlates with the presence of the desired amino acid in said biological sample.

28. (Amended) A method for detecting the level of the amino acid sequence of any one of [Claims 3 or 4] SEQ ID NO:9 to SEQ ID

NO:16 in a biological sample, comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting with said biological sample the antibody of Claim 6 [or 7], thereby forming an antibody-antigen complex; and
- (b) detecting the amount of said antibody-antigen complex and normalizing said amount to provide the level of said amino acid sequence in the sample.

✓ 29. (Amended) A method for determining the ratio between the level of any one of the amino acid sequences of [Claims 3 or 4] SEQ ID NO:9 to SEQ ID NO:16 of variant TNFR present in a first biological sample and the level of the original TNFR amino acid sequences from which they were varied by alternative splicing, present in a second biological sample, the method comprising:

(a) determining the level of the amino acid sequences of [Claims 3 or 4] SEQ ID NO:9 to SEQ ID NO:16 into a first sample by the method of Claim 28;

(b) determining the level of the original TNFR amino acid sequence in the second sample; and

[(d)] (c) comparing the level obtained in (a) and (b) to give said ratio.

Cond. Please add the following newly submitted claims:

✓ --31. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as an active ingredient any one of the amino acid sequences of Claim 3.

✓ 32. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as an active ingredient any one of the amino acid sequences of Claim 4.

✓ 33. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as an active ingredient the expression

vector of Claim 10.

34. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as an active ingredient the purified antibody of Claim 6.

35. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as an active ingredient the purified antibody of Claim 7.

36. A method for detecting any one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:9 to SEQ ID NO:16 in a biological sample, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting with said biological sample the antibody of Claim 7, thereby forming an antibody-antigen complex; and

(b) detecting said antibody-antigen complex wherein the presence of said antibody-antigen complex correlates with the presence of the desired amino acid in said biological sample.

37. A method for detecting the level of the amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NO:9 to SEQ ID NO:16 in a biological sample, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting with said biological sample the antibody of Claim 7, thereby forming an antibody-antigen complex; and

(b) detecting the amount of said antibody-antigen complex and normalizing said amount to provide the level of said amino acid sequence in the sample.--

REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to remove multiple dependencies from the claims. The newly submitted claims have

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